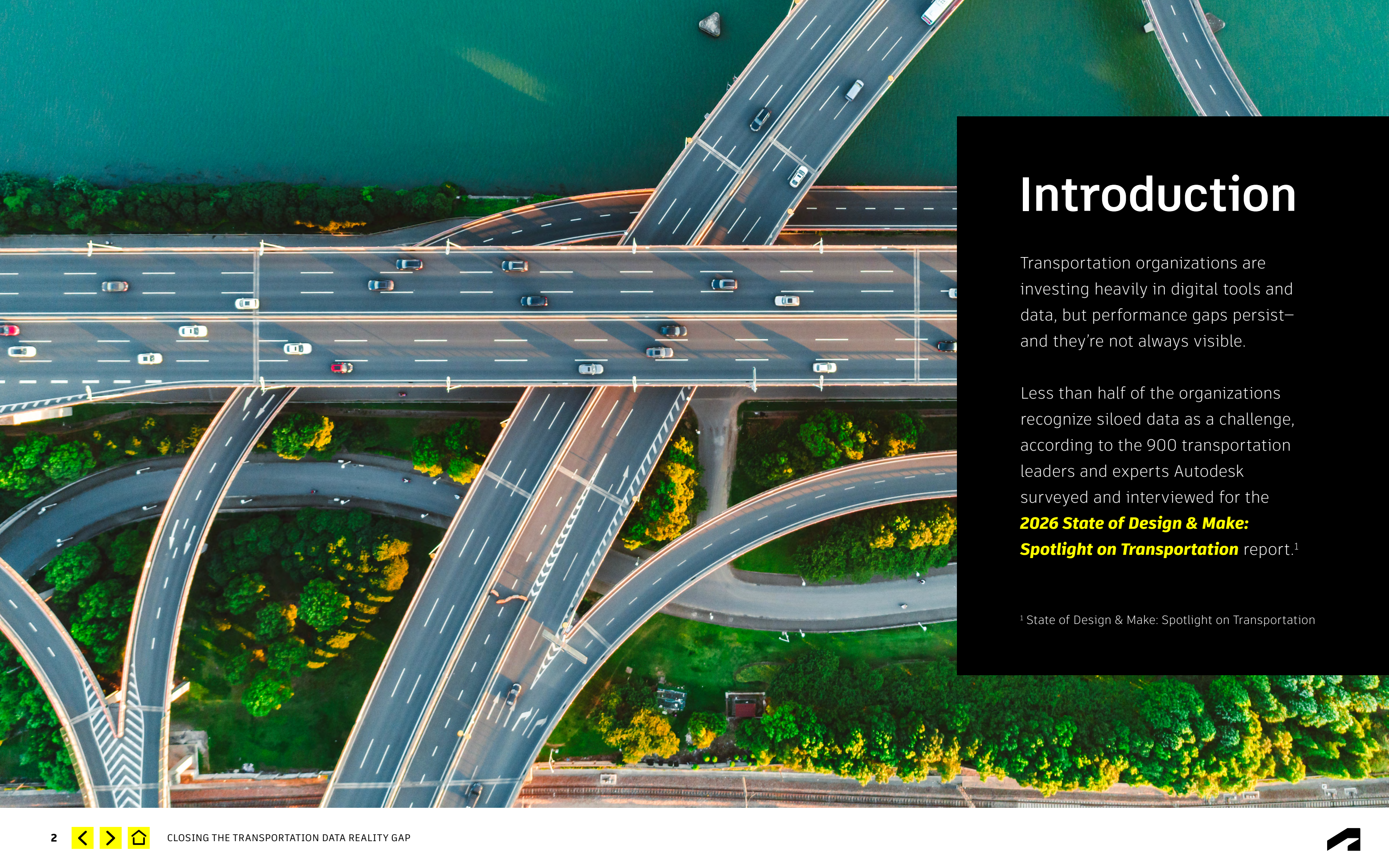




Closing the transportation data reality gap

Why projects underperform
—and why most organizations
don't see it coming





Introduction

Transportation organizations are investing heavily in digital tools and data, but performance gaps persist—and they're not always visible.

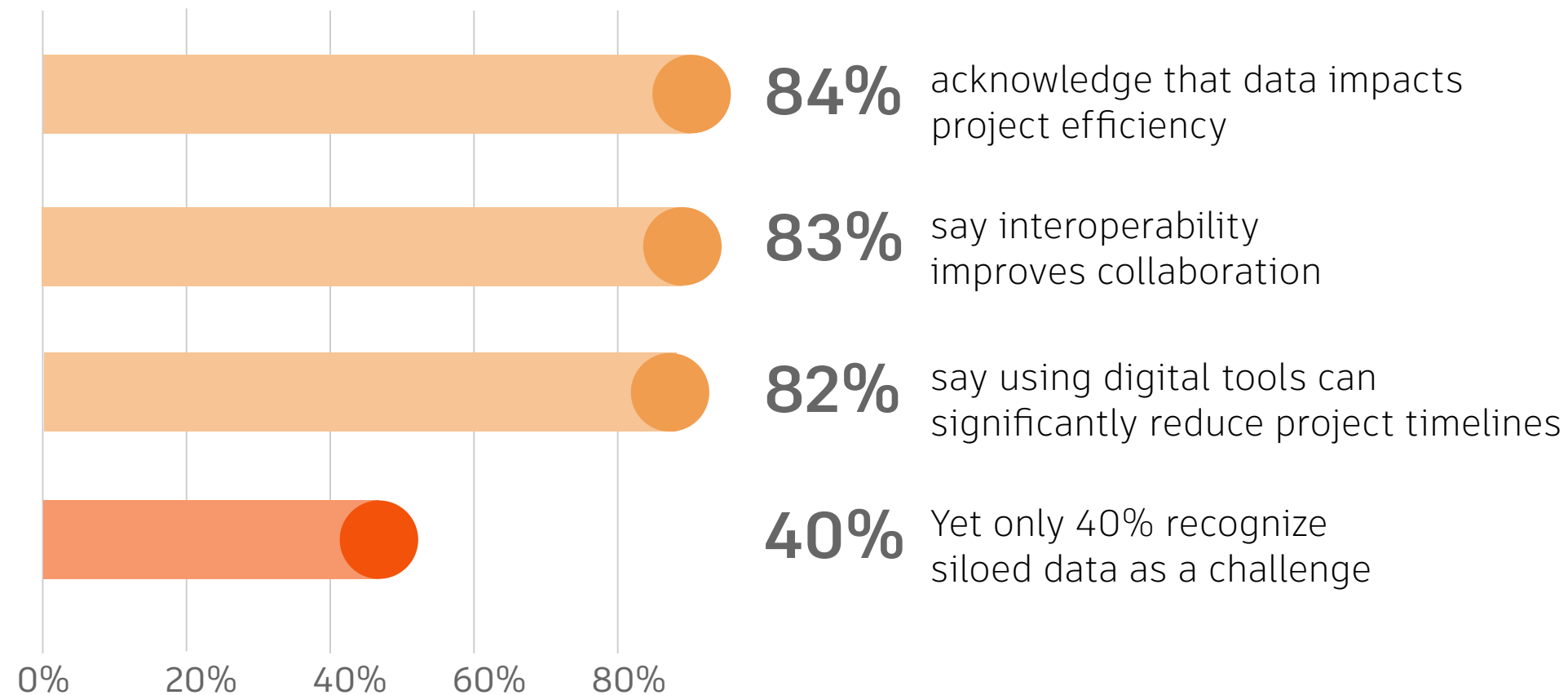
Less than half of the organizations recognize siloed data as a challenge, according to the 900 transportation leaders and experts Autodesk surveyed and interviewed for the **2026 State of Design & Make: Spotlight on Transportation** report.¹

¹ State of Design & Make: Spotlight on Transportation

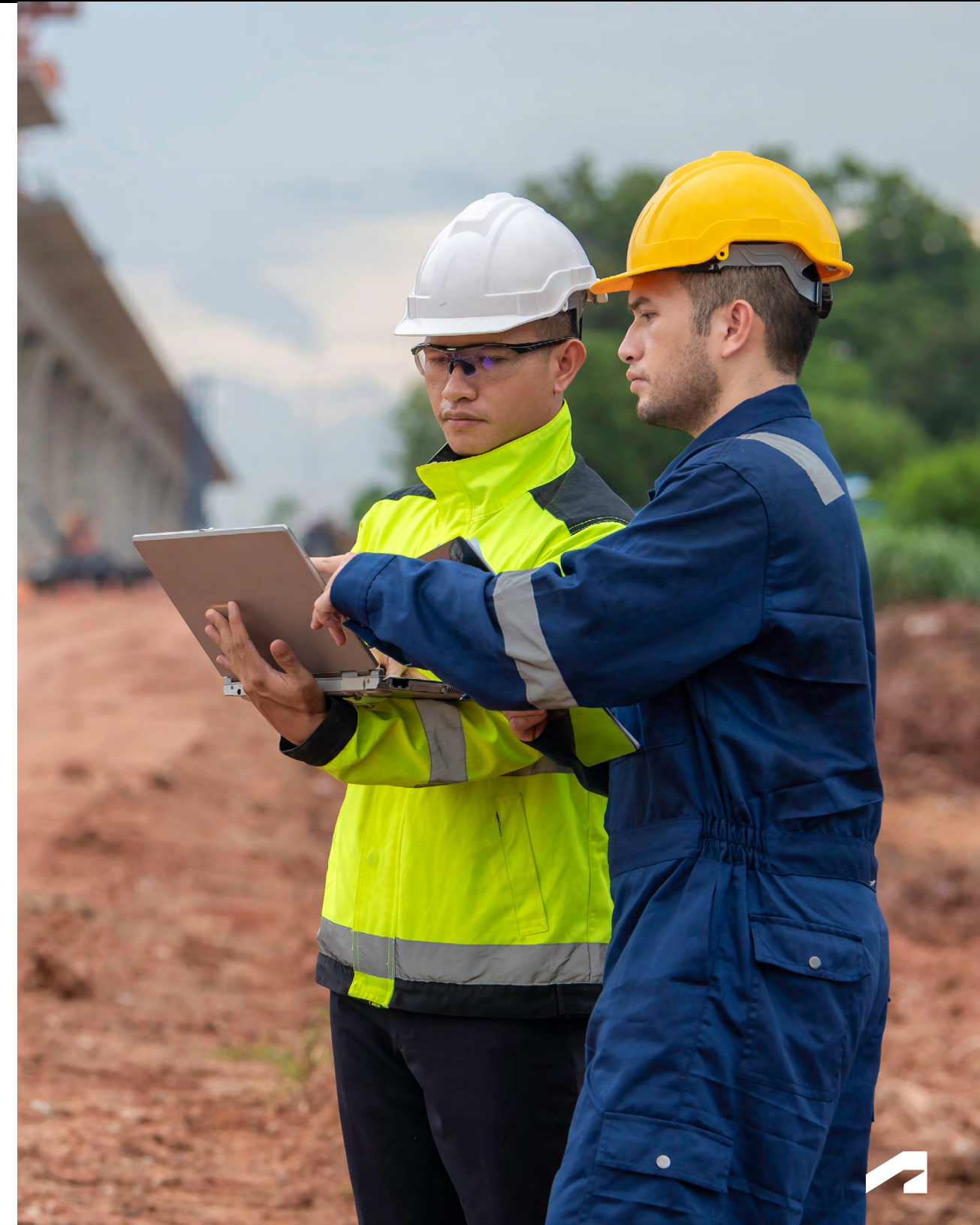
You think you're performing well



Across the industry, leaders express strong confidence in their data, workflows, and collaboration practices.



Organizations believe they understand what drives performance—and that they are managing it effectively.



But outcomes tell a different story



Despite strong confidence, many organizations continue to experience project breakdowns.



52% have seen projects fail or underperform due to poor collaboration



Most organizations report **ongoing rework** caused by data interoperability issues

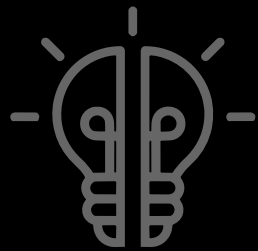


Only **2%** face no data interoperability challenges

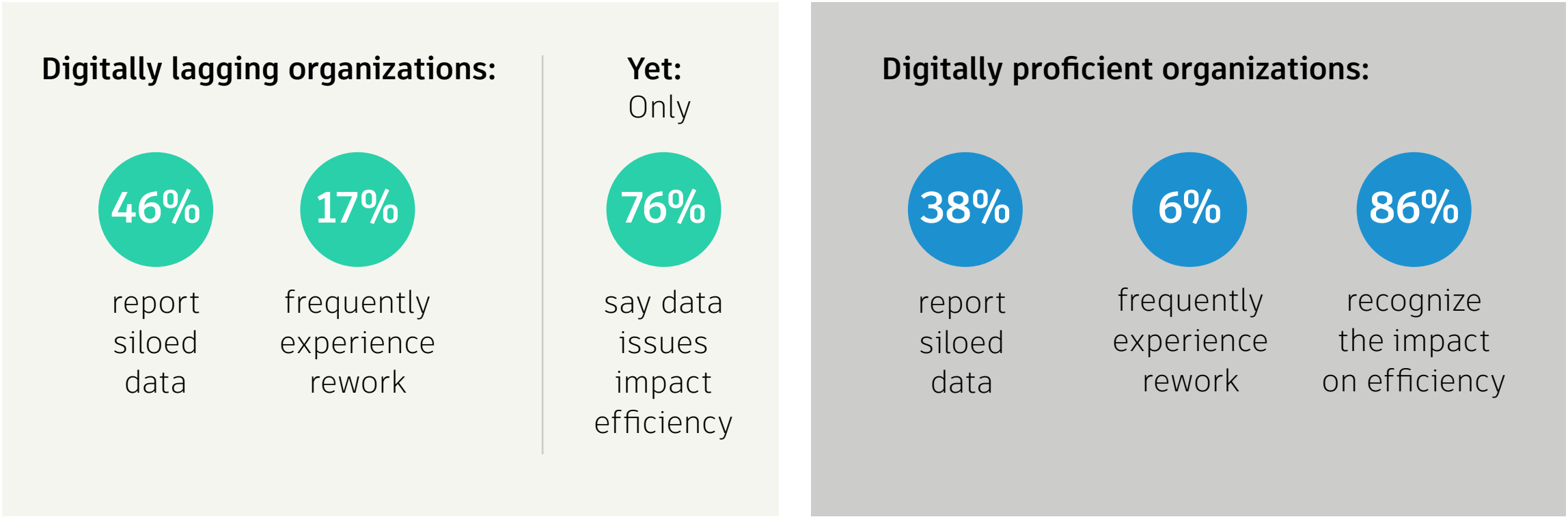
The gap between perceived performance and actual outcomes is wider than expected.



The biggest problems are often **the least visible**



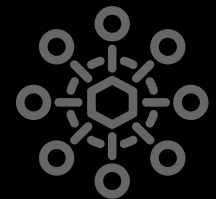
Not all organizations experience data challenges the same way—and not all recognize them equally.



Organizations with the most severe data issues are often the least aware of their impact.



Everyone knows **what matters**



There is clear agreement across the industry on what drives performance.



86%
say smooth
workflows
are essential

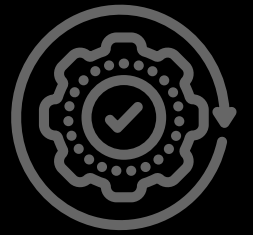


83%
say interoperability
improves
collaboration

The industry understands the importance of connected data and workflows.



But no one **has solved it**



Despite this alignment, execution remains inconsistent.



40%
still struggle
with siloed data

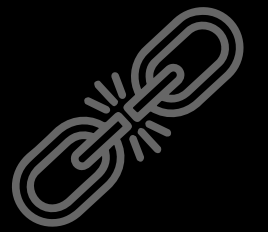


57%
experience rework
due to poor data
interoperability

The industry has moved past awareness—but not
past fragmentation.

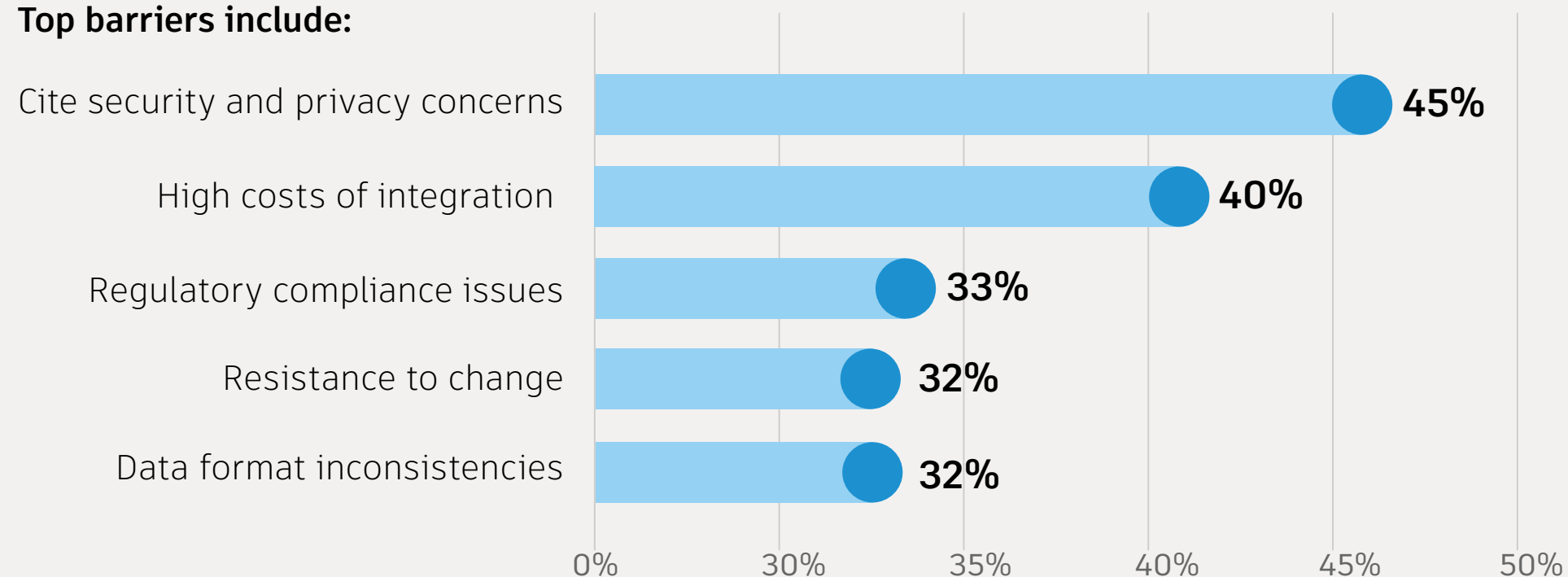


Interoperability isn't one problem —it's many

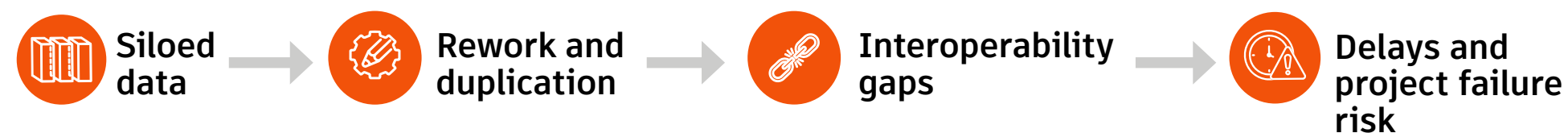


Data challenges vary depending on region, organization type, and systems.

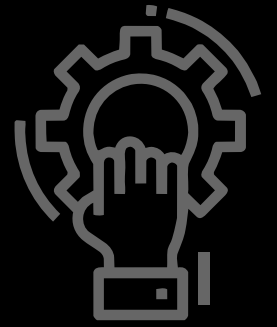
Top barriers include:



Data problems rarely stay isolated—they compound across the project lifecycle and could scale into major risk.



Closing the gap: Turning insight into action



Closing the gap isn't about adding more tools or collecting more data—it's about building on information you can trust. The transportation industry needs:



Greater visibility into how information drives performance

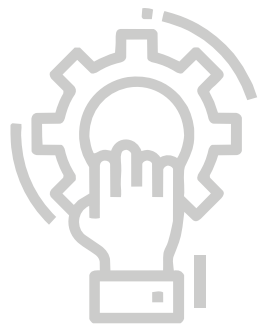


Better alignment between systems and workflows



Stronger integration across teams and stakeholders





Takeaways for leaders

The organizations that lead have made their data governed, connected, and decision-ready. Six priorities can help achieve that:

- 1 Start with governed, structured data.**
Before connecting tools or scaling AI, establish clear ownership, standards, and quality controls for how data is created, classified, and maintained across the enterprise. Consistent formats, naming, classification, and metadata makes data trustworthy, reusable, and machine-readable. Connecting ungoverned data only spreads inconsistency faster.
- 2 Identify gaps before they become costly.**
Benchmark your data and collaboration maturity against outcomes, such as rework, reschedules, and failed handovers. This reveals the gap between perceived performance and how projects actually run—because you can't fix what you can't see.
- 3 Create a single source of truth.**
Bring design, construction, and asset information into a common data environment so every team works from current, consistent information. This reduces version conflicts, duplicated effort, and the margin erosion they create across the project lifecycle.
- 4 Make interoperability the default, not the workaround.**
Adopt open data standards and connected workflows so information flows seamlessly between disciplines, tools, and delivery partners—without re-keying or data loss. Many transportation inefficiencies begin at disconnected handoffs, making interoperability one of the most effective places to reduce rework.
- 5 Turn data into decisions, not just reports.**
Use connected data and AI-assisted insights to surface risk and monitor performance in real time across teams and geographies. The goal isn't more reporting—it's making better decisions sooner, while they can still influence outcomes.
- 6 Extend data value into operations.**
Deliver structured, reliable asset data so infrastructure owners inherit a usable digital record rather than a collection of documents. The value of trusted data compounds for decades after construction is complete.

Get in touch with us for a consultation today to understand how you can gain greater visibility into your data, better align between systems and workflows, and improve collaboration across teams and stakeholders.

Contact us >



www.autodesk.com

Autodesk and the Autodesk logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of Autodesk, Inc., and/or its subsidiaries and/or affiliates in the USA and/or other countries. All other brand names, product names, or trademarks belong to their respective holders. Autodesk reserves the right to alter product and services offerings, and specifications and pricing at any time without notice, and is not responsible for typographical or graphical errors that may appear in this document.

© 2026 Autodesk. All rights reserved.

